



## CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN MINDANAO

### WHEELCHAIRS for MINDANAO for WAR VICTIMS & OTHER DISABLED PERSONS

#### BACKGROUND/HISTORY

In 2003 more than 400,000 civilians in the southern part of Mindanao were forced to leave their homes and livelihoods. Displaced by the fighting between government security forces and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MIL), they continue to struggle for their daily survival in an environment where there are few opportunities for earning a living. Significant number had been forced from their homes for the second or third time. The recurring situation also resulted to general underdevelopment, with the vulnerable sectors as first victims, including the persons with disabilities (before the conflict or as a victim of the war) and who have received very limited attention.



The internally displaced persons (IDPs) are in need of rehabilitation assistance to restart their lives. The disabled war victims, often left out in the various rehabilitation and development efforts, doubly need the necessary rehabilitation services to support their integration into their communities. This four-year project, which started in June 2004, aims to make the PWDs productive members of their communities.

#### OBJECTIVE

Integrate PERSONS with DISABILITIES in their communities by improving their mobility and access to development opportunities

#### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

To help persons with disabilities and war victims live a decent life and to be part of society as active citizens by providing them prescribed wheelchair and related services goal

#### MAIN FEATURES:

##### A Wheelchair Production Center – Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental

- Will produce 25 wheelchairs per month and to supply the distribution units. It will be designed according to the needs of the patient, to fit very well with the disability & their environment

##### Five (5) Wheelchair Distribution/ Maintenance Units will be established

- In partnership with existing local organizations which are providing services to persons with disabilities and are situated in the key regions in Mindanao. The distribution unit becomes a component of their existing services to make it accessible to the beneficiaries/clients.
  - ▣ Region X - Cagayan de Oro –
  - ▣ Caraga Region- San Francisco, Agusan del Sur
  - ▣ Region 9- Davao City
  - ▣ ARMM- Cotabato City
  - ▣ Region IX- Zamboanga City



#### COMPONENTS & SERVICES:

##### Provision of Prescribed Wheelchair & Rehabilitation Services

- ▣ Physiotherapy, counseling, maintenance & repair of wheelchair

##### Social Integration – integration of the beneficiaries

**1. Social Awareness** – to change the way people view and behave towards PWDs and wheelchair users

- ▣ Capacity building & organizational support- to strengthen PWD associations
- ▣ Training of Community volunteers – on patient follow up & home based care
- ▣ Organizing Social events that emphasize the capabilities of the wheelchair users

**2. School Integration** – facilitating the access to school for wheelchair user children, enrollment of the children, assist the adaptation of school building for wheelchairs

##### ▣ Socio-Economic Support

- To provide the beneficiaries access to income generating activity (IGA) through the development of entrepreneurship capacity
- ▣ Networking & Referral
- ▣ Establishment of a PWD profile in the area and documentation of the process



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### PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

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### ACCOMPLISHMENT

1.The Wheelchair Production Center was constructed in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental and inaugurated last Feb.3, 2005

2.Five (5) Distribution Units were established in partnership with Philippine Service of Mercy Foundation, Inc. – Cagayan de Oro City, Loving Presence Foundation Inc. – San Francisco, Agusan del Sur/Bislig City, Davao Jubilee Rehabilitation Foundation Inc. – Davao City, Handicap International-Field Office-Cotabato City, Loving Witness of Hope Foundation Inc. –Zamboanga City

3.Three Distribution Unit Building construction were completed and inaugurated. ( Cities of Davao , Cagayan de Oro and Cotabato).

4.Tools and equipment for the production center and distribution units were provided.

5.Training of 8 Wheelchair Technician for the Production center, and Distribution Unit staff ( 5 Physical Therapists, 5 Social Workers, 5 Technicians) on Disability Identification, Early Intervention, Wheelchair Technology and Cushion Design and Production to Prevent Pressure Sores were conducted.



6.Training of Admin/Finance Support Staff on Administrative & Financial Procedures of the USAID & HI.

7.Wheelchairs Event Activities were conducted in the distribution units. These included Forum on Magna Carta for PWDs, inclusion & accessibility, parade of wheelchair users, sports activities for the PWDs.

8.Wheelchair production started May 2005. Eight prototypes of wheelchairs were produced to date (as of 15 June 2005).

